

Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS
Chapter 10: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

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Maine Revised Statutes
Title 7: AGRICULTURE AND ANIMALS
Chapter 10: AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

§305. FINDINGS

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 402, §A77 (NEW). 1999, c. 72, §3 (RP).

§306. TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROGRAM

(REPEALED)

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 402, §A77 (NEW). 1999, c. 72, §4 (RP).

§306-A. AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

1. Agricultural Development Fund. The commissioner shall establish an agricultural development fund to accelerate new market development, adoption of advantageous technologies and promotion of state agricultural products by state producers.

[1999, c. 72, §5 (NEW) .]

2. Fund operation. The commissioner shall utilize the agricultural development fund to:

A. Provide grants to individuals, firms or organizations to conduct market research or to undertake market promotion activities for the purpose of expanding existing markets and developing new markets for state agricultural products; and [1999, c. 72, §5 (NEW) .]

B. Test and demonstrate new technologies related to the production, storage and processing of state agricultural commodities. [1999, c. 72, §5 (NEW) .]

[1999, c. 72, §5 (NEW) .]

3. Rulemaking. The commissioner shall establish, by rule, in a manner consistent with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A criteria for the allocation of grant money, application requirements consistent with the provisions of this section, a schedule for accepting and reviewing applications, reporting requirements on grant expenditures and project results and any other administrative requirements necessary for the efficient implementation of this program. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are major substantive rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A. The commissioner is guided by the following criteria:

A. Applications may be submitted by individuals, firms or organizations in response to a request for proposals for competitive grants. The commissioner may also contract directly with individuals, firms or organizations for a special project under section 307; [2013, c. 64, §1 (AMD) .]

B. A percentage of the total cost of any project must be funded by the applicant or applicants and a percentage of the total cost must be funded from nonpublic sources. These percentages must be established by rule. A single grant may not exceed 50% of the total funds available to be granted in a given year; [2013, c. 64, §1 (AMD) .]

C. Information relative to market research or development activities provided to the commissioner prior to formal application, included in grant applications or provided to the commissioner to fulfill reporting requirements is confidential information and may not be publicly disclosed by the commissioner as long as:

- (1) The person to whom the information belongs or pertains has requested that certain information be designated as confidential; and
- (2) The commissioner has determined that the information gives the person making the request opportunity to obtain business or competitive advantage over another person who does not have access to the information or will result in loss of business or other significant detriment to the person making the request if access is provided to others; and [1999, c. 72, §5 (NEW).]

D. When possible, the commissioner shall award grants to applicants representing diverse agricultural enterprises and geographic areas of the State. [1999, c. 72, §5 (NEW).]

[2013, c. 64, §1 (AMD) .]

4. Advisory committee. The commissioner shall establish the Agricultural Development Committee to evaluate market and production development competitive grant applications and review project results.

[2013, c. 64, §2 (AMD) .]

SECTION HISTORY

1999, c. 72, §5 (NEW). 2013, c. 64, §§1, 2 (AMD).

§307. SPECIAL PROJECTS

The commissioner may contract directly with the University of Maine System or qualified individuals, firms or organizations for market research, for testing new technologies and for research on technical problems related to the production, marketing, storage and processing of agricultural commodities. [2013, c. 64, §3 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 402, §A77 (NEW). 1999, c. 72, §6 (AMD). 2013, c. 64, §3 (AMD).

§308. SPECIAL REVENUES

Interest in the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund, established in Title 10, section 1023-J, and funds contributed by individuals, firms or organizations for special projects or for competitive agricultural development projects must be deposited in a dedicated account that does not lapse. Individuals, firms or organizations may specify that funds contributed to this account may be used to initiate projects affecting specific commodities. [1999, c. 72, §6 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 402, §A77 (NEW). 1999, c. 72, §6 (AMD).

§309. ANNUAL REVIEW

The commissioner and the Agricultural Development Committee shall, on an annual basis, review the effectiveness of the programs operated under the provisions of this chapter and provide a summary of the review to the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development. [2015, c. 2, §6 (COR).]

SECTION HISTORY

1987, c. 402, §A77 (NEW). 1999, c. 72, §6 (AMD). 2009, c. 337, §9 (AMD). RR 2015, c. 2, §6 (COR).

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